

TB SCREENING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT FACILITIES IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Summary

TB SCREENING: includes a TB symptom review at intake, TB skin test (TST), and a chest x-ray (CXR) for all TST positive or symptomatic individuals.

1. Alcohol and drug abusing individuals, injection drug users, and those with HIV infection are all at high-risk for developing TB. Therefore, we recommend TB screening, currently required only of residential treatment programs, be adopted by outpatient programs as well.
2. All clients, new staff, and volunteers should be questioned regarding TB symptoms at or before admission/employment. If these symptoms are present, these individuals should be assisted in immediately obtaining medical care, before entering the program.
3. We encourage all programs to limit, or eliminate, the time in which unscreened individuals are present in the program. Ensure that TB screening is done *within 7 days of admission/employment, and preferably done before arrival* (ie: programs with waiting lists).
4. All TST positive individuals should have a CXR done *within 7 days of or 3 months prior to arrival in the program.*
5. HIV-infected individuals should have a CXR taken *within 3 months prior to admission or employment* in residential treatment programs, regardless of skin test result.
6. Residential treatment programs should assist TST positive/chest x-ray normal clients in scheduling a medical evaluation for treatment of Latent TB Infection (LTBI) with their own physician, or if none, at a TB Control clinic *within 14 days of their admission into the program.* Outpatient programs, if time allows, could greatly assist both the client and the general public health, by encouraging their clients to also have this evaluation.
7. To better assess TB risk and functioning of the screening process, TB Control has developed TB-related data collection tools and education materials.

If clients of alcohol and drug treatment programs do not have a private physician, they may go to any County Health Center for a TST and CXR. Medical evaluations and treatment are also available. Services are provided regardless of ability to pay.